



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
www.ladpw.org

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **C-1**

September 29, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REJECT ALL BIDS AND READVERTISE
WATER SECURITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 40, ANTELOPE
VALLEY:**

1. Reject all bids received on August 23, 2005.
2. Adopt the revised plans and specifications for Water Security Improvement Project, in the vicinities of Lancaster and Desert View Highlands (5), at an estimated cost between \$1,500,000 and \$1,700,000.
3. Call for bids to be received on November 15, 2005.
4. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors to advertise the project and to seal and return the plans and specifications to Public Works for filing.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This action involves contracting for the installation of security systems for nine water facilities including closed-circuit television monitors, remote cameras, motion sensors, and digital video recorders; construction of concrete block walls, fences, gates, bars for windows, skylights, vents, and doors; and other appurtenant work.

On August 23, 2005, four bids were received for the work on this contract. The lowest bidder submitted an unbalanced bid proposal, and the second lowest bidder failed to submit an acceptable bid bond, resulting in both bids to be considered nonresponsive. The remaining two bids were both greater than the engineer's estimate by 28 and 32 percent, respectively. We believe that readvertising this project will result in the receipt of better bids. Therefore, rejecting all bids and readvertising the project is in the County's best interest.

Our certified records of the bid proposals received on August 23, 2005, are enclosed.

This project is part of Public Works' ongoing program to improve security at water facilities.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This project is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence since it will enhance the security and safety of water facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no fiscal impact associated with rejecting these bids. Costs associated with readvertising will likely be offset by obtaining more favorable bids.

Sufficient funds to cover the cost of this project are included in the Fiscal Year 2005-06 Accumulative Capital Outlay Fund of Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley. A portion of the cost of the closed-circuit television monitors and remote cameras will be reimbursed through a grant from the Federal Department of Homeland Security.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The "Instructions to Bidders," included as one of the contract documents, provide for the rejection of all bids by your Board, if such action is in the best interest of the County.

The enclosed plans and specifications include the contractual provisions, methods, and material requirements necessary for this project. The contract agreement will be in the form previously approved by County Counsel.

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the project specifications stating that the contractor shall notify its employees, and shall require each subcontractor to notify its employees, that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under the Federal income tax laws.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

On July 19, 2005, your Board found that this project is categorically exempt pursuant to Class 1, Subsections (i) and (m), of the revised County Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, and Section 15303(e), of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

This project will be contracted on an open competitive bid basis. The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder meeting the criteria established by your Board and the California Public Contract Code.

To increase contractor awareness of our program to contract work to the private sector, this project will be listed on the County website for upcoming bids.

The project specifications contain provisions (1) requiring the contractor to comply with the County's Child Support Compliance Program, (2) requiring the contractor to report solicitations of improper consideration by County employees and allowing the County to terminate the contract if it is found that the contractor offered or gave improper consideration to County employees, (3) requiring the contractor to comply with the requirements of the County's Contractor Employee Jury Service Program, and (4) requiring the contractor to comply with the Newborn Abandonment Law (Safely Surrendered Baby Law).

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The project specifications also contain a provision that, should the contractor require additional or replacement personnel to fill employment openings, consideration shall be given to hiring qualified participants in the County's Greater Avenues for Independence or General Relief Opportunities for Work Programs.

To ensure that the contract is awarded to a responsible contractor with a satisfactory history of performance, bidders are required to report False Claims Act violations, labor law/payroll violations, debarments, their civil litigation history, and information regarding prior criminal convictions. The information reported will be considered before making a recommendation to award.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The delay in carrying out this project will have no significant impact on current services.

The project is to be completed in 160 working days. It is estimated that the work will start in January and be completed in August 2006. Local residents will be informed that traffic and local access will be mildly disrupted during the construction.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Director of Public Works

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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Office of Affirmative Action Compliance

WATER SECURITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR PUBLISHING LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

From: Department of Public Works
Construction Division

PUBLISHING

In accordance with Section 20392 of the Public Contract Code:

Publish: At least ten consecutive times, prior to the date set for opening bids, in a daily newspaper of general circulation printed and published in the County and designated by the Board, or for at least two consecutive times prior to such date in a weekly newspaper printed and published in the County and designated by the Board.

Time Limitation: To open bids in five weeks.

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed Bids will be received by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Construction Division, for the installation of security systems for nine water facilities including closed-circuit television monitors, remote cameras, motion sensors, and digital video recorders; construction of concrete block walls, fences, gates, bars for windows, skylights, vents, and doors; and other appurtenant work under Project ID No. WWD4000003, Water Security Improvement Project, in the vicinities of Lancaster and Desert View Highlands.

The Bids must be submitted at the Cashier's Office, located on the Mezzanine level, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331, before 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 15, 2005. The Bids will then be publicly opened and read in Conference Room A or at the location posted in the main lobby.

The Work shall be done in accordance with the Plans and Specifications on file and open for inspection at the County Board of Supervisors Executive Office and the Department of Public Works. The Work is estimated to cost between \$1,500,000 and \$1,700,000 and shall be completed in 160 working days. The Work requires a California Class A or B contractor's license. Prebid questions regarding the Plans and Specifications should be directed to Ms. Sumitha Shival at (626) 458-3159.

A mandatory Prebid meeting for this Contract will be held at 10 a.m. on November 2, 2005, at the Antelope Valley Waterworks office, 260 East Avenue K-8, Lancaster, California 93535 (Thomas Guide page 4105-J3). All nine water facilities will be visited during this meeting. Attendance at each of the nine sites is mandatory for award of the Contract. However, if you have already attended the Prebid meeting held on August 10, 2005, and attendance was recorded at each of the nine sites, it will not be necessary to attend the Prebid meeting that will be held on November 2, 2005.

The Bids must be submitted on the Proposal forms included in the Bidder's package of the Contract Documents which may be purchased for \$18, if picked up at the aforementioned Cashier's Office, (626) 458-6959, Monday through Thursday between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., or at the Department of Public Works Permit Office, 38126 Sierra Highway, Palmdale, California 93550, (661) 947-4151, Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. The Bidder's package of the Contract Documents may also be mailed for \$22, which includes postage and handling.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or surety bond payable to Los Angeles County in an amount equal to at least 10 percent of the Bid to guarantee that the Bidder will enter into the Contract if it is so awarded.

All persons performing the Work shall be paid not less than the General Prevailing Wage Determination prepared by the Director of Industrial Relations pursuant to the California Labor Code. Copies of these wage rates are available at the Department of Public Works.

The Bid must provide full disclosure of False Claims Act violations, labor law/payroll violations, debarments, and civil/criminal legal actions as provided for on the forms included as part of the Proposal. Failure to complete these forms may result in a determination that the Bidder is nonresponsive and/or not responsible.

The Contract, if awarded, will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder; however, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject any and all Bids.

A responsible Bidder is a Bidder who has demonstrated the attribute of trustworthiness, as well as quality, fitness, capacity, and experience to satisfactorily perform the Contract. It is the County's policy to conduct business only with responsible contractors.

The successful Bidder will be required to fully comply with all applicable State and Federal reporting requirements relating to employment reporting for its employees and comply with all lawfully served Wage and Earnings Assignment Orders and Notice of Assignment and continue to maintain compliance throughout the duration of the Contract. Failure to comply may be cause for termination of the Contract or initiation of debarment proceedings.

The successful Bidder will be required to submit a faithful performance bond, payment bond, liability insurance, and workers' compensation insurance with the Contract.

As provided for in Section 22300 of the California Public Contract Code, the Contractor may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the Department of Public Works to ensure performance under the Contract, or enter into an escrow agreement for payment of such monies to an escrow agent.

Para mas informacion con relacion a esta noticia, por favor llame a este numero (626) 458-3118. Nuestras horas de oficina son de 7 a.m. a 5:30 p.m. de Lunes a Jueves.

Each person by submitting a response to this Notice Inviting Bids certifies that such Bidder and each County lobbyist and County lobbying firm, as defined by Los Angeles County Code Section 2.160.010, retained by the Bidder, is in full compliance with Chapter 2.160 of the Los Angeles County Code.

The County supports and encourages equal opportunity contracting.

By order of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

Dated October 11, 2005.

Violet Varona-Lukens
Executive Officer
of the Board of Supervisors

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